

Torrance, California  
October 4, 1955

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING  
OF THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in a regular meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on October 4, 1955, at 5:30 P. M., Mayor Isen presiding.

Those responding to roll call by City Clerk Bartlett were: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Blount, Drale, and Isen. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Schwab. Also present were City Manager Stevens and City Attorney Hall.

At the request of Mayor Isen, Mr. Varner led the salute to our Flag.

The Reverend Brunson of the Nazarene Church opened the meeting with an invocation.

Councilman Benstead moved to approve the minutes of the Council meeting of September 27, 1955. Motion seconded by Mayor Isen.

Councilman Drale asked if the minutes could be approved inasmuch as the meeting had not been formally closed.

Mayor Isen asked City Attorney Hall for a ruling. The City Attorney replied that while he might not be right in so doing, he would rule that the meeting has ended and that the effect of the adjournment was to continue that meeting into this, so what is done tonight covers both meetings. Should the minutes of the September 27 meeting be challenged at some future time for some particular reason, there would not be prima facie proof that all the minutes set forth therein are an exact transcription of what went on. Therefore, unless there is a certain portion of the minutes that someone would take exception to, they would be considered as approved.

Motion failed by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: Schwab.

BIDS:

The Mayor announced that this was the time and place for opening of bids for modernization and addition to Torrance Fire Station No. 3, located at 3610 West 174th Street.

City Manager Stevens opened the following bids, which were read by City Clerk Bartlett, and each of which was accompanied by bidders' bond or cashier's check in the amount of 10% of total amount bid.

<u>BIDDER</u>	<u>LUMP SUM PRICE</u>	<u>ALTERNATE "A"</u>	<u>ALTERNATE "B"</u>
R. E. Payne	\$14,617.00	\$2,407.00	\$702.00
Don Wolf	\$17,554.00	\$2,276.66	\$256.00
Walter Wiitanen	\$15,689.00	\$2,769.00	\$275.00
E. I. Noxon	\$19,689.00	\$2,700.00	\$245.00

Councilman Blount moved that these Bids be referred to the City Manager for study and recommendation. Motion seconded by Councilman Drale, no objection, so ordered.

COMMUNICATIONS:

1. Invitation from American Municipal Association to attend 32nd Annual American Municipal Congress to be held in Miami, Florida, from November 27 to 30, 1955.

There was no objection, and the invitation was ordered filed.

2. Notice of Rescission from the Moneta Water Company.

Mayor Isen referred this to City Attorney Hall, who asked for permission to reply to this and deny certain false statements contained therein. Mayor Isen replied that he had that authority, and asked if Mr. Hall could give the Council any information now.

Mr. Hall said this related to the efforts of the City to supply water to a development now taking place, and that this Rescission had been filed referring to a "secret agreement", which is not a true statement.

3. Communication from Helen M. Dunn, submitting petition with 258 signatures requesting signal light at Hawthorne and 230th Street.

Mrs. Dunn was in the audience, and spoke to the Council. She said that the State had taken a survey at the crossing, but that when it took place most of the children were being ferried across Hawthorne in cars by the various parents. She said the residents of the area had contacted Vincent Thomas and Mr. Harding and Mr. Hutchison, the latter two being officials of the State Highway Department, but that no reply has reached the petitioners.

After some discussion by the Council with Mrs. Dunn, Councilman Drale moved that City Manager Stevens be requested to write to the various officials concerned and request a light signal at Hawthorne and 230th Street, and notify them that the City is willing to bear its proper share of the cost. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale then moved that the State be requested to post signs reducing the speed limit in the area as well as "School Crossing" signs at once.

Motion seconded by Councilman Blount, no objections, so ordered.

City Manager Stevens said that his office would attend to these matters immediately.

4. Memorandum from Board of Education requesting the Council to give the matter of drainage careful consideration prior to approval of any development adjacent to school sites.

The communication was ordered filed after some discussion.

5. Memorandum from Torrance Board of Education recommending that Plaza del Amo not be developed as a boulevard-type two-way street; and requesting permission to use a portion of the street as parking area.

Councilman Drale moved to refer this to the Traffic Commission for their recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

6. Letter from Don Wilson, of Kauffman-Wilson Tracts, proposing that the City purchase park site and agree to waive park fees on Tract No. 21676.

Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens for his recommendation.

The City Manager explained that what Mr. Kauffman proposed to do was to deed to the City the 5.301 acre park site with improvements, i.e., curbs, sewers, water mains, streets, etc., in return for the park fees he has paid the City and in lieu of future park fees. Mr. Stevens said the land with improvements would cost about \$35,000.00, and that he felt it to be a good offer to the City.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

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7. M. A. Chamberlain, Bus Superintendent, recommending rerouting of a portion of El Nido-Long Beach Bus line.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the Bus Superintendent. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, no objections, so ordered.

8. A. H. Bartlett, City Clerk, advising Council that terms of the Library Board have expired.

Mayor Isen asked Councilman Blount, as Trustee of that Board, for his recommendations. Councilman Blount moved that the present members of the Library Board be reappointed. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Councilman Blount pointed out that the terms were staggered, and as they expire after this appointment each should come before the City Council for action.

Mayor Isen reappointed H. L. Mitchell as Chairman of the Library Board for 3 years, Mrs. Humphreys for 3 years, Mr. Bloomfield for 1 year, and Mrs. J. R. Thomsen for 2 years. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

#### Recommendations of City Manager:

##### PERSONNEL:

1. James S. Foster and Herbert L. Minor have been employed as Police Officers, effective October 1, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.)

2. Jesse D. Cahill was employed as a Laborer, effective September 27, 1955, and Richard Marion was employed as a Laborer, effective September 29, 1955, both in the Street Department. These are temporary appointments during absence of two permanent employees, due to sickness and injury. (There is no available Eligible List, but a new examination was given on Saturday, September 24.)

3. Guy H. Gwynn was employed as a Janitor, effective September 21, 1955, at the first salary step. (Selected from Eligible List.)

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendations of the City Manager, Items 1 through 3. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

4. That all Police Officers assigned to motorcycle duty be paid a bonus of \$25.00 per month. This amount is in keeping with that paid by other cities in the area.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation. The motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

5. That George C. Powell be authorized to attend the Governor's Conference on Civil Defense in Sacramento, October 13, and 14, 1955, with appropriate expenses paid.

Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

##### APPROPRIATIONS:

1. To Barclay Surveying Company for engineering services during August 1955, the sum of \$1,300.00.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the

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City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

CONTRACTS:

1. That lease contracts be made with David A. Cook, William R. Lewis and Archie L. Jackson for leasing motorcycles for the period October 1, 1955, to September 30, 1956, in accordance with the terms of the lease.

Councilman Benstead moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

2. That the contracts for operation of the Bus Terminal in Los Angeles by Maybel C. Banks, and the Torrance Depot by Charles Gotts, be extended to September 21, 1956, under the terms of the existing Agreement and at the same commission of 10%.

There was some discussion among the Council members about the two terminals, and Mayor Isen asked City Manager Stevens to go over the contracts before next Council meeting and inform the Council as to whether or not janitorial service was included. City Manager Stevens said he would do so.

Councilman Benstead moved that the Bus Superintendent be authorized to search for a better site for the Los Angeles terminal. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

ENGINEERING AND PLANNING COMMISSION MATTERS:

Case No. 359. Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Dresser Equipment Company for Change of Zone on property located at 2410 Carson Street from R-3 and C-1 to M-1.

Mayor Isen set the date of the third and final hearing on Case No. 359 before the City Council as October 25, 1955, at 8:00 P. M. in the Council Chamber.

Transmittal form from Planning Commission recommending approval of request of Casimir Gardens Company for waiver of front yard setback on Lot 10, Kristine Avenue in Tract No. 21645.

The Council discussed this, and Councilman Benstead moved that the request be referred back to the Engineering Department for the preparation of a sketch. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, no objections, so ordered.

Letter from J. R. Patrick, Assistant to City Engineer, submitting resolution of intention to vacate a portion of Via Colusa. Location sketch attached.

City Clerk Bartlett read the following:

RESOLUTION NO. 2832

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF VIA COLUSA IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2832. Motion, seconded by Councilman Benstead, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2833

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE DECLARING ITS INTENTION TO VACATE A CERTAIN PORTION OF REESE ROAD IN THE CITY OF TORRANCE, FIXING A TIME WHEN THE CITY COUNCIL WILL MEET TO TAKE FINAL ACTION THEREON, AND PROVIDING FOR THE PUBLICATION OF THIS RESOLUTION.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2833. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2834

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN AGREEMENT BETWEEN SAID CITY AND THE TORRANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RELATIVE TO ADVERTISING AND PROMOTING THE CITY FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1955-56.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2834. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried by the following vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Blount, Drale, Isen. NOES: COUNCILMEN: Benstead. ABSENT: COUNCILMAN: Schwab.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2835

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND CITY CLERK TO EXECUTE THAT CERTAIN QUITCLAIM DEED TO J.C. FREELAND AND MARIAN FREELAND OF CERTAIN EASEMENTS RESERVED IN ORDINANCE OF VACATION NO. 719 OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE.

Councilman Benstead moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Benstead moved for adoption of Resolution No. 2835. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

#### RESOLUTION NO. 2836

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE REGARDING THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL OF SEWAGE AT HYPERION.

Councilman Blount moved to dispense with further reading of the Resolution. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.



Councilman Blount moved for the adoption of Resolution No. 2836. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

#### ORDINANCE NO. 779

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE AMENDING LAND USE ORDINANCE NO. 612, RECLASSIFYING THAT CERTAIN PROPERTY DESCRIBED IN PLANNING COMMISSION CASE NO. 356.

Councilman Drale moved to dispense with further reading of the Ordinance. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Drale moved for the adoption of Ordinance 779 at its second and final reading. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

#### ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Isen took the time at this point to remind the Council that the dedication of the new Armory will be a high point in Torrance events. He said that convertibles would be furnished for the various dignitaries attending the ceremonies attendant upon the dedication, and he hoped that all the Councilmen would be present.

Chief of Police Haslam spoke to the Council as follows: "The Traffic Commission has surveyed the area of Calle de Arboles and Monte de Oro thoroughly and recommend:

1. That stop signs be posted on Via Pasqual at east and west entrances to Monte de Oro.
2. That no action be taken on matter of "no parking" on Calle de Arboles and on Monte de Oro until an agreement can be made with the owners of the property fronting on said streets, whereby such owners of property will agree to same.
3. That stop signs have been placed on Calle Mayor at Los Altos and should be covered by suitable ordinance.
4. That stop signs be placed at all four corners of 231st Street and Pennsylvania Avenue and proper ordinance be passed."

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendations of the Traffic Commission and that the proper ordinances be drawn. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Blount moved that the matter of more adequate stop signs at 220th and Cabrillo be referred to the Traffic Commission.

Chief Haslam agreed with Councilman Blount, and recommended that additional stop signs be erected at that corner.

Mayor Isen moved to concur, and that the proper ordinance be drawn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

City Manager Stevens reported that the preliminary figure of 67,394 population had been given to him by Mr. Lewis after the Census. Mr. Stevens said that a final figure would be available within about three or four weeks, which is usually the period of time necessary to count the few people missed by the census takers and get the final tabulation from Washington.

City Manager Stevens told the Council that since he had been authorized to employ an assistant, he had interviewed a large number of people from all over the State, and has finally selected a local man, Donald W. Mansfield. He said he feels that Mr. Mansfield will make a fine addition to the City's staff.

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Councilman Blount moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

City Manager Stevens said that the old curtains on the stage of the auditorium were worn out. He has received several unofficial estimates on new ones, and they will cost somewhere around five or six thousand dollars. He asked the Councilmen to consider whether or not they will approve the purchase of new curtains, and said he would write them a memorandum on it. If they do believe that new curtains should be bought he said he would call for bids on them.

The City Manager also reported that the store owners and property owners on Marcellina between Sartori and Cravens are collecting money for the necessary light standards on that street. Because the City would put in the two on the corners anyway, he recommended that the City bear one-third of this cost.

Councilman Drale moved to concur with the recommendation of the City Manager. Motion, seconded by Councilman Blount, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

City Attorney Hall pointed out to the Council that the new Code has been completed and will soon be ready for distribution. A sample copy was available for inspection.

Councilman Benstead referred to the minutes of the regular meeting of the Civil Service Board held Monday, September 7. Mr. Benstead

said that in this meeting two men were discussed who were 64 years old and have worked for the City for many years. Due to their being disabled at this time they are unable to perform their duties. It was the general opinion of the Board that if an employee is unable to perform his work he should either be requested to retire, if he is old enough, or it will be necessary to discharge him.

Councilman Benstead took exception to this opinion, saying that he felt that after 18 years of service, and becoming 64 years old in the employ of the City, an employee should not be "cast aside like an old shoe". He said further that he did not think the Civil Service Board should make such statements.

Mayor Isen asked the City Clerk to see that the Civil Service Board was informed of the Councilman's statements.

Councilman Drale asked to have the Traffic Commission study the question of installing a traffic light at Carson and Crenshaw. There were no objections and it was so ordered.

Mayor Isen read a letter which he received from Mayor Norris Poulson of Los Angeles, the letter saying that there was a misunderstanding of Mr. Poulson's statements about annexing areas contingent to Los Angeles. The letter was given to City Clerk Bartlett to be filed.

Mr. Ted Kolehiss of 236th Street asked the Council about having his land rezoned. It was suggested to him that he contact City Attorney Hall and City Manager Stevens for their ideas and suggestions on the matter, and that it be placed before the Council at their regular meeting of October 11.

Mr. J. E. Kettler of 24227 South Western Avenue came before the Council next, and showed them new maps of the area he proposed to subdivide, and which he had brought before the Council at their previous meeting. The map has been redrawn as the Council suggested and Mr. Kettler wished them to see the new maps before he presented the matter to the Planning Commission again.

Councilman Blount moved that all bills properly audited be paid. Motion, seconded by Mayor Isen, carried unanimously by roll call vote of those present.

Councilman Benstead moved to adjourn. Motion, seconded by Councilman Drale, no objections, and the Council adjourned at 6:40 P. M.

*C. H. Barthol*

City Clerk of the City of Torrance

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APPROVED:

*Albert Isen*

Mayor of the City of Torrance